



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08049.0010

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Oscar L. AVANT et al. ) Group Art Unit: 2876  
Application No.: 09/651,323 ) Examiner: Ahshik KIM  
Filed: August 31, 2000 ) Confirmation No.: 3894  
For: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR )  
IDENTIFYING A MAILPIECE USING AN )  
IDENTIFICATION CODE )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination in the above-referenced application. Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine

that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

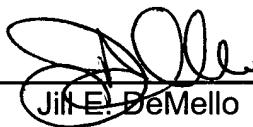
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: October 18, 2004

By: 

Jill E. DeMello  
Reg. No. 42,477

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No. 08049.0010	Appln. No. 09/651,323
Applicant Oscar L. AVANT et al.	
Filing Date August 31, 2000	Group: 2876

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
O I P E	2,709,001	05/1955	Stahl			
OCT 18 2004	2,719,629	10/1955	Robinson			
PTO TRADEMARK OFFICE	2,895,588	07/1959	Marle Frederick Van			
	3,015,389	01/1962	Levy			
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	3,781,800	12/1973	Cramer et al.			
	3,933,094	01/1976	Murphy et al.			
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	3,981,590	09/1976	Perkins, Joseph R.			
	4,119,194	10/1978	Freeman et al.			
	4,310,754	01/1982	Check, Jr., Frank T.			
	4,516,264	05/1985	Corvari et al.			
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	4,731,741	03/1988	Allen			
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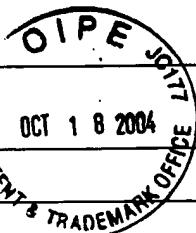
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## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
O P E S C T	5,050,078	09/1991	Sansone, Ronald P.			
OCT 18 2004 PTM TRADEMARK OFFICE	5,143,225	09/1992	Rabindran et al.			
	5,198,655	03/1993	Suetsugu et al.			
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Atty. Docket No.	08049.0010	Appn. No.	09/651,323
Applicant	Oscar L. AVANT et al.		
Filing Date	August 31, 2000	Group:	2876

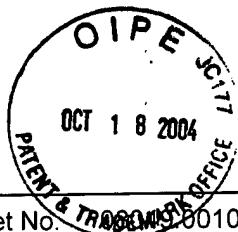
	6,421,451	07/2002	Shiratsuchi et al.			
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	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
	63-101982	05/1988	Japan			
	4-326187	11/1992	Japan			
	529966	03/1993	EPO			

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0069187, Barnum et al., published June 2002.
	U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0122569, Coffelt et al., published September 2002.
	Brandt et al., "Apparatus and Methods for Processing Mailpiece Information in a Mail Processing Device Using Sorter Application Software," Pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/652,275, filed August 31, 2000.
	Avant et al., "Apparatus and Methods for Processing Mailpiece Information by an Identification Code Server," Pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/652,707, filed August 31, 2000.
	Avant et al., "Apparatus and Methods for Reading an Identification Code Froma Mailpiece," Pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/652,708, filed August 31, 2000.
	Avant et al., "Apparatus and Methods for Identifying and Processing Mail Using an Identification Code," Pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/652,709, filed August 31, 2000.



OMB No. 0651-0011

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Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce